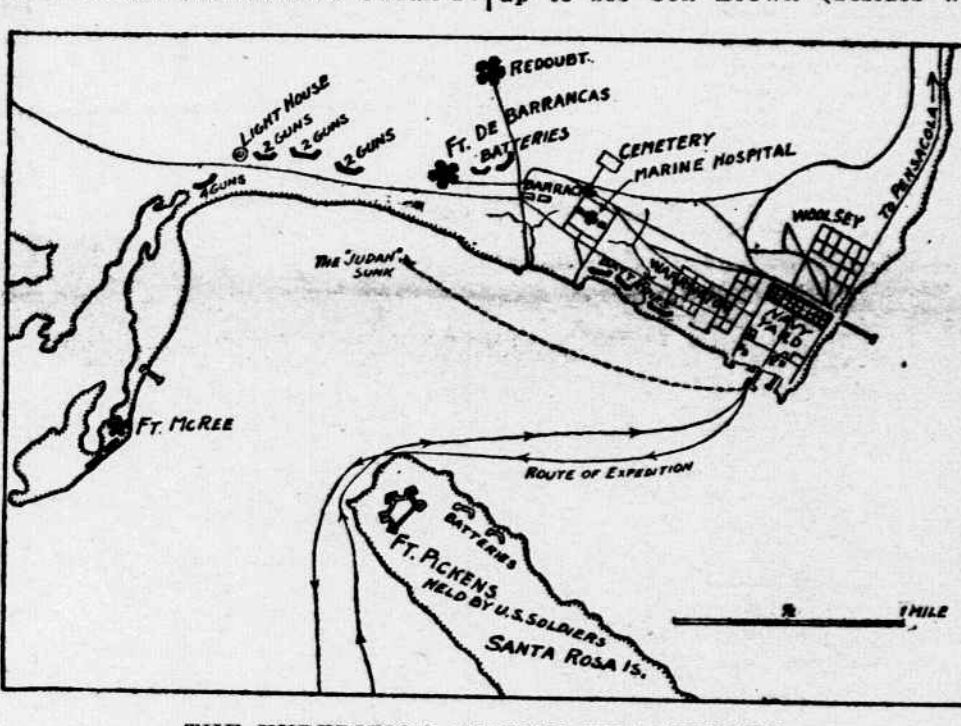


That night our dead companions were buried on the Island of Santa Rosa. A sandy hillock, near the fort, with head and foot board, with inscriptions, marks their resting place today.

Headley, in his "Great Rebellion," says of this exploit:

**"It was one of those daring, gallant**



## THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE "JUDAH"

THE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO THE  
SOUTH OF VICKSBURG AND ROUTES  
TAKEN.

was taken to prevent being seen by the enemy. All the lights were extinguished, the ports carefully covered, the fires well lighted before passing, so as to make the least smoke, and the steam was to be exhausted in the wheel-houses to make the least noise. The boats were to move at a slow speed, with 50 yards interval between them to avoid collisions. Each boat was to keep a little to the starboard of the course of the one ahead, so that in case

The night of April 16 came on clear and starlit, with the haze of the early Spring evening hanging over the surface of the water and the banks. Ev-

**Preparations.**

The orders were then issued to prepare the steam launch, 1st, 2d and 3d cutters, with a force of 100 souls, including marines and officers, the command of which was entrusted to Lieut.

John H. Russell, who was permitted to select the officers and men to compose the expedition. The following officers were selected:

Lieut. John G. Sproston, Lieut. Francis G. Blake, Midshipmen Steece, Forrest and Higginson; Capt. E. McD. Reynolds, U. S. Marine Corps, with 20 men; Asst Surgeon S. D. Kennedy, and Gunner Benton; total, officers and men, 100 men. The two boats were armed with light 12 pounder Dahlgren howitzers. The despatching mark was ordered.

white cap-covers, although Lieut. Russell advocated and urged that the sword arm should be white, as cap covers and caps were liable to be easily lost, which might cost the life of one of our own party. The result will show that he was correct.

**The Start.**

At 9 o'clock p. m., Sept. 13, the boats were dropped in the water on the side

The schooner was lying bows out, when they pulled until it became apparent to the crew that Lieut. Sproston, instead of rounding Santa Rosa, was pulling across and would soon be under Fort McRae. He hailed Lieut. Blake to know the reason why he did not round the island, which replied, "I do not want to." Lieut. Blake was then ordered to take the lead and round the island. This he did, for Lieut. Blake could be depended on to do his duty thoroughly and efficiently. He was a first-class sailor, and the service sustained a great loss when he resigned and entered the banking firm of Blake & Bros., in London, as one of the

partners. Slowly, and perhaps mournfully, the boats continued against a head wind, the boats of the Ross in the land side; not a word from officers or men. Lieut. Russell remarked:

"You men will wake up presently—we will have a little pyrotechnic display before long." Lieut. Russell sat on the taffrail of the schooner, and the swain, and John Herring on his left. Just before 3 o'clock a. m. the sheers were seen, which showed the locality of the schooner. Lieut. Russell immediately ordered the boats to resume his position as leader and carried out his orders, and for Lieut. Blake to fall back into his position. This was quietly and quickly done, and the boats proceeded, as yet, unmolested.

The schooner is discovered, grim and silent, at the wharf, bows out; simultaneously the oars noiselessly struck the water and headed for the prize; the two leading boats, under Lieut. Sproston, bore off, as directed, for the capture of the gun. When about 100 yards from the Judah a hall came from her crossrees boat:

"What boat is that?"

Midshipman Higginson lost a small portion of his thumb.

With 12 men killed and 13 wounded the boats continued their course for the ship. Passing close to Santa Rosa Island, some one hailed from shore with:

"Russell, I congratulate; nobly done; have you many wounded?"

"Russell, I am glad to hear of it," Langdon; a good many; why did you not fire?"

Some idea of the severity of the fighting may be formed when it was discovered that nearly one-fifth of the attacking force had either been killed or wounded.

Although occasional rockets and

lights continued from the fortifications, we succeeded in passing safely out and on. The boats of the United States and Colorado hailed the approaching boats, and, on Lieut. Russell's answering, the crew of the schooner hailed back:

"There is Mr. Russell, anyway!"

All were cordially received and congratulated by officers and crew. The boats were crowded with men anxious to benefit of the admiring listeners; the dead and wounded were hoisted on board, and the boats were deep-sough by the tired-out participants.

**Destruction of the Schooner.**

The schooner, freed from her moorings by the fire, drifted from the wharf and, being blown by the wind, was driven away by the tide until, de-

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